



15¢



JULY
NO. 389



Detective  Comics presents

BATMAN and BATGIRL



IT'S--ME!

AND I'M
PETRIFIED
WITH FEAR--
OF MYSELF!

HI-POWER BINOCULARS

SEE UP TO 18 MILES

Powerful folding Opera Glasses
fit into pocket or purse. Center
eye piece adjustment. Worth many
times low introductory price. Com-
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NOW ONLY

75¢

Postpaid.
Limit 2
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Please send me Hi-Power Binoculars.

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you've got "INSTANT LIFE"®

Yes, it's the living truth! In only five minutes you will actually hatch a whole tumbling, playful, happy troupe of Sea-Monkeys that are even more fun than a zoo full of chattering, howling jungle monkeys! World's most amazing new pet, children and adults alike will laugh and thrill with wonderful excitement. Watch the comic antics of these fantastic underwater buffoons that are really alive. Any minute of the day or night, you'll see them chase one another in a playful game of tag. The loser gets caught by his tail and is spun in a dizzy circle. See the "showoffs" turn cartwheels of joy in the water... see the ticklish ones "scratch" each other's backs. Watch them swim singly or in ever-changing graceful formations, creating a live sea-circus.

ONLY
\$ 1.00



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Watch the Miracle of Life

These genuine living sea animals begin life from a seemingly inanimate handful of glittering crystals which contain the secret of life. A fantastic genetic material that stays alive for as long as twenty years. And these delightful pets that are born alive are so tiny... only three-quarters of an inch long when full grown, you raise an entire troupe in an ordinary glass of water from your sink. It's so safe, just empty the package of crystals we send you into the fish bowl of water and you will immediately see "Instant Life." Best of all, you can create a whole new brood at any time, to give as gifts or sell if you wish.

They Obey Your Silent Commands

You can actually make these marvelous Sea Monkeys behave like a bunch of trained seals as they follow a beam of light anywhere. Just darken the room and watch them follow a flashlight or candle beam forward, backward, sideways or around like a pack of happy kids playing Follow the Leader. So don't delay! Order now. Only \$1.00 plus 25¢ shipping charges complete.

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===== MONEY BACK GUARANTEE =====
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4 EAST 46th STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Rush me my kit(s) for hatching my live Sea-Monkeys at once. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return it for prompt refund of my purchase price.

I enclose \$1 plus 25¢ ship. charges for each kit. Send _____ kit(s).

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ (No C.O.D.'s please)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

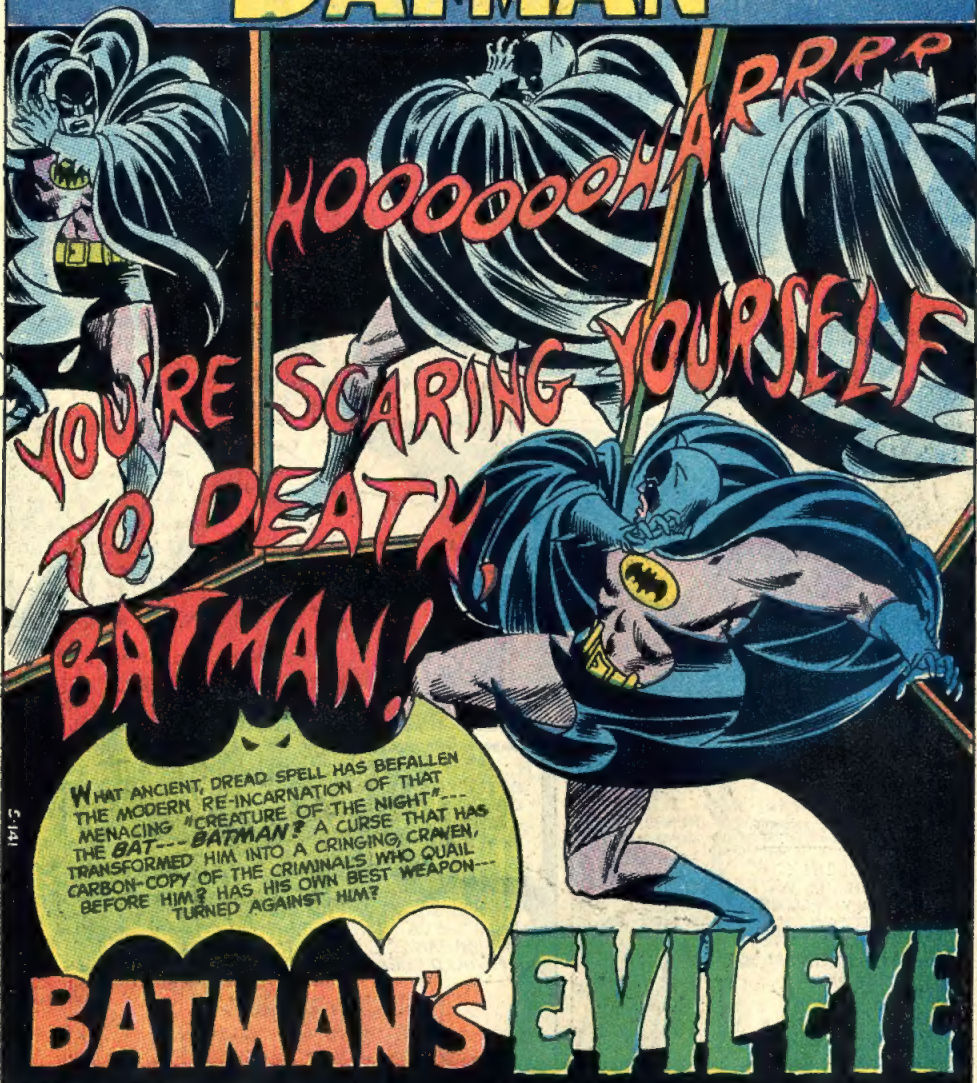
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STORY
BY
FRANK
ROBBINS

BATMAN

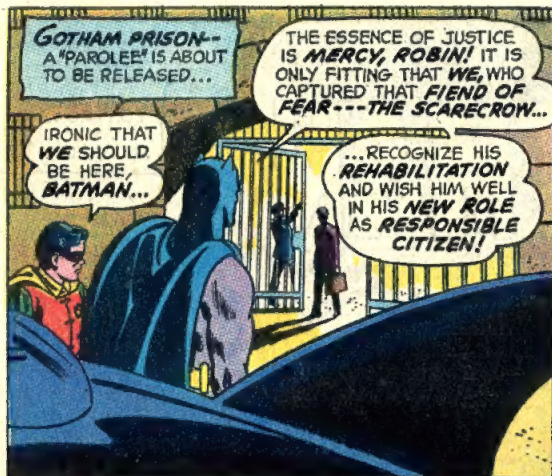
ART BY
BOB BROWN
AND
JOE GIELLA



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GOOTHAM PRISON--
A "PAROLEE" IS ABOUT
TO BE RELEASED...

IRONIC THAT
WE SHOULD
BE HERE,
BATMAN...

THE ESSENCE OF JUSTICE
IS **MERCY, ROBIN!** IT IS
ONLY FITTING THAT **WE**, WHO
CAPTURED THAT **FIEND OF
FEAR---THE SCARECROW...**

...RECOGNIZE HIS
REHABILITATION
AND WISH HIM WELL
IN HIS **NEW ROLE**
AS **RESPONSIBLE
CITIZEN!**



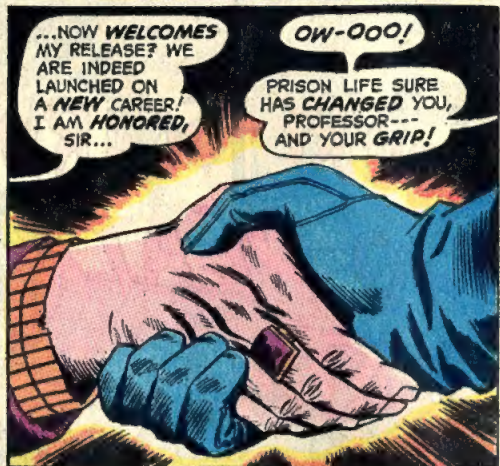
WHILE, AS **BATMAN**,
IT'S MY SWORN DUTY TO
APPREHEND CRIMINALS
--AS **BRUCE WAYNE**,
IT'S EQUALLY MY DUTY TO
HELP **REFORM** THEM!

I WISH I
SHARED YOUR
OPTIMISM,
BATMAN--
BUT I'VE HAD
TOO MUCH
BITTER
EXPERIENCE!



I CAN UNDERSTAND **YOUR**
SKEPTICISM, PROF. CRANE,
BUT--LET'S START OFF ON
A **NEW FOOTING!** YOU'VE
PAID FOR YOUR **PAST--**

SO? THE
MIGHTY
CRUSADER--
WHO ONCE
TREMbled IN **FEAR**
BEFORE ME...



...NOW **WELCOMES**
MY RELEASE? WE
ARE INDEED
LAUNCHED ON
A **NEW CAREER!**
I AM **HONORED**,
SIR...

OW-OOO!

PRISON LIFE SURE
HAS **CHANGED** YOU,
PROFESSOR---
AND YOUR **GRIP!**



FORGIVE ME! I GUESS
MY **ENTHUSIASM** FOR
FREEDOM KNEW NO
BOUNDS!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME--MR. BRUCE WAYNE
HAS KINDLY PROVIDED
TRANSPORT TO MY NEW
JOB AT HIS **INSTITUTE
FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
RESEARCH!**

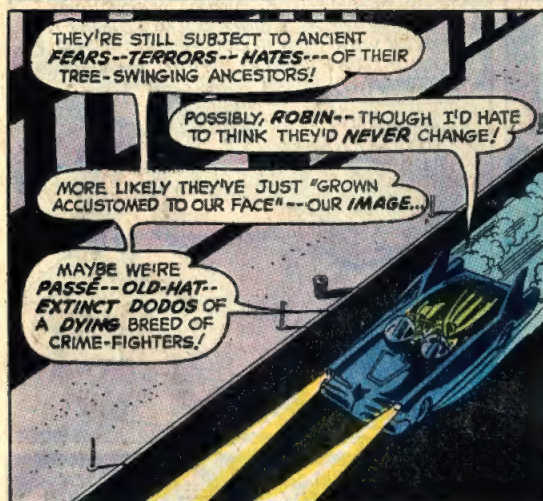
IF ONLY HE
KNEW THAT
I WAS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR BOTH
HIS PAROLE
AND JOB!



NIGHT DROPS A MANTLE
OF DARKNESS OVER
GOOTHAM AS THE
DYNAMIC DUO
DRIVES BACK TO
THE CITY...

WE'VE SURE COME A LONG WAY
FROM THE DAYS WHEN MY VERY
APPEARANCE--- AS THAT
FEARED CREATURE OF THE
NIGHT---THE **BAT...**

...USED TO **STRIKE
TERROR** INTO THE
HEARTS OF **MEN**
WITH **GUILTY
CONSCIENCES---**
THE **NIGHT
CREATURES** OF
THE **UNDERWORLD!**



AS THE CAPED CRUSADER LEAPS FORWARD,
A REACTION---LONG FORGOTTEN---COMES
INTO BEING AGAIN!...

B-BATMAN?

D-DON'T JUST
STAND THERE,
BOYS! HOP ABOARD--
AND LET'S GET MOVIN'!

B-B-BUT IT'S THE
B-B-BAT--
BATMAN!
SHUDDER!

AND THEN,
SOMETHING
SNAPS---
THE "OLD
"SPELL" IS
BROKEN!...

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT
I THOUGHT---

KCHOK

YE-AH--THOUGHT
THEY WERE SO
FROZEN WITH
FEAR OF YOU,
BATMAN...

...THEY'D LAY DOWN AND
QUIT COLD! FORGET IT---
THOSE WERE THE OLD
DAYS!

SWOK

LIKE I SAID,
BATMAN...

THE BASIC FEARS...
HATES... MAY BE
UNCHANGED, BUT...

YEP! THE "IMAGE"
HAS CHANGED!

MY SHOCK
VALUE--HAS
WORN OFF!

KAPOW

TCHOK

ZOKK



GUESS ALL THEY UNDERSTAND NOW, **ROBIN**--- IS SHEER UNADULTERATED **BRUTE POWER!**

THE "**BAT'S**" **PSYCHOLOGICAL WEAPON**--- THE POWER TO INSTILL **FEAR**, ON SIGHT, IN THE **CRIMINAL MIND**--- IS **GONE FOREVER!**

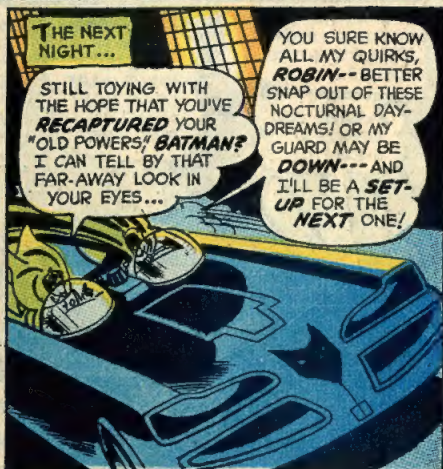
ENOUGH OF THIS **GROUP-THERAPY, BATMAN!** LET'S GET THESE "**METER-MAIDS**" TO THEIR **PERMANENT PARKING ZONE!**



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

HI, COMMISSIONER GORDON! FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE WAY TO A CRIME TONIGHT...

AW, SKIP IT, **BATMAN!** THE COMMISSIONER HAS MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DO THAN LISTEN TO AFTER-CRIME JOKES!



THE NEXT NIGHT...

STILL TOYING WITH THE HOPE THAT YOU'VE **RECAPTURED** YOUR "**OLD POWERS!**" **BATMAN?** I CAN TELL BY THAT FAR-AWAY LOOK IN YOUR EYES...

YOU SURE KNOW ALL MY QUIRKS, **ROBIN**-- BETTER SNAP OUT OF THESE NOCTURNAL DAY-DREAMS! OR MY GUARD MAY BE **DOWN**--- AND I'LL BE A **SET-UP** FOR THE **NEXT ONE!**



AND THE "**NEXT ONE**" IS NOT LONG IN COMING---!!

A BREAK-IN AT **GOthAM'S GEM MART!**

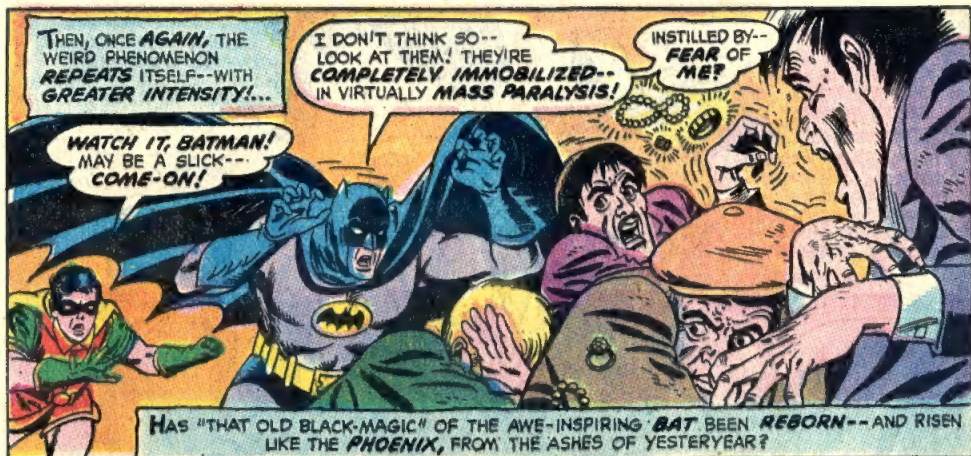
RIGHT! ONLY **THIS TIME**-- WE HIT **FIRST**-- USE **PSYCHOLOGY LATER!**



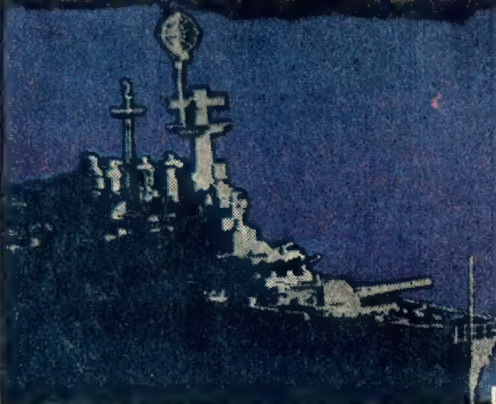
A-A-ARGH!

I-I-IT'S...

T-T-THE--B-B-B-BAT-MAN!



ALIVE AND WELL

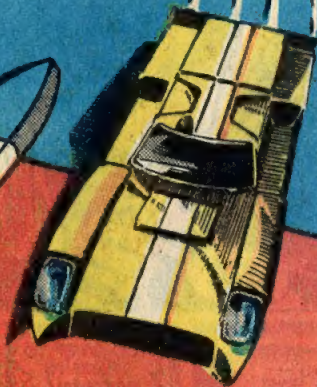


Build her, yourself! The mighty North Carolina was reportedly sunk six different times by the Japanese during WW II. But we are happy to tell you that Battleship 55 is alive and well in the Carolina port of Wilmington, where she is a permanent, floating war memorial. You'll be totally absorbed as you build this daring dreadnought who fought in 12 major Pacific battles from Guadalcanal to VJ Day. She has main turrets that move, guns that elevate, and a crane and catapults that swivel to retrieve and launch her two scout planes. Her superstructure is incredibly true to life. If you enjoy building great ships of the line, the North Carolina will be the proud flagship of your collection. She sells for \$2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold. Send 35c for 1969 color catalog of new Revell kits. Revell, Inc., 4205 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291



SPEEDLINE^{T.M.}

**action
at the
CRISSCROSS.**



The cars are on the line... flip the sling-shot starters... down the straightaway... a near miss at the crisscross... the lead changes in the stretch... a photo finish but no argument. The automatic finish line flag tells you who won.

All this action is wrapped up in Aurora's new Speedline Crisscross Set. Complete with two cars; two-lane track; two sling-shot starters; and two-lane automatic finish line.



Under \$4.00 wherever really fast cars are sold.

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Aurora products are manufactured entirely in the U.S. for distribution in America;
in Canada for the Commonwealth national; and in Holland for Europe and Africa.





AND ELSEWHERE ---
OTHERS URGE EQUAL
CAUTION TO THE ---
SCARECROW...

BOSS---YOU NUTS
OR SOMETHIN'?
THIS JOKER'LL
PARALYZE YA
THE MINUTE HE
LOOKS AT YA!

HOOOHEEE!

NEVER FEAR, MY CRAVEN
COHORTS --- I SHALL
CONQUER THE
PRINCE OF DARK-
NESS--BATMAN!

THE FOLLOWING
NIGHT...

TOOK A LOT OF
CONVINCING TO
PERSUADE **ROBIN** AND
GORDON---THAT THIS
WAS **MY CHALLENGE**
ALONE!

ONE THAT MAY BE
THE **SUPREME TEST**
OF MY ABILITY TO
COPE WITH THE
CRIMINAL MIND!

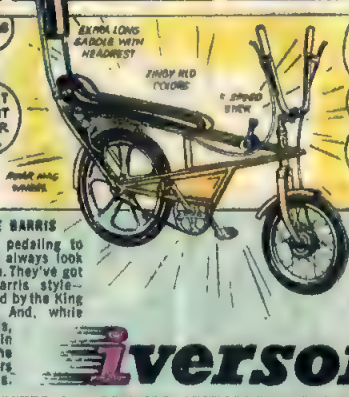
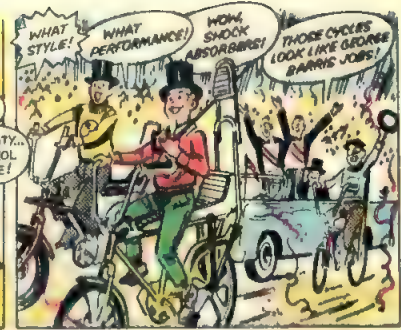
BUT IF MY UNKNOWN
GOADER THINKS I'M
BREAKING IN THROUGH
THE **OBVIOUS** ENTRANCES
---HE'S **UNDERESTIMATED**
ME!

HOOOHEEEE!
I NEVER UNDER-
ESTIMATE **BATMAN**--
WHICH IS WHY
HE'S FALLING
INTO MY **TRAP!**

NOW TO
BAIT IT...

FLASHLIGHT
BELOW! THE
FOOL NEVER
EXPECTED
ME TO STRIKE
FROM **HERE!**

CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY PATROL



THE BEST BIKE STORES IN YOUR TOWN HAVE BARRIS-DESIGNED IVERSON BICYCLES JUST LIKE THE ONES RIDDEN BY THE MIGHTY PATROL. SEE THEM THERE.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS KUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND \$1.00

iverson Division of
Stelzer Industries
91-31 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, N.Y., Dept. 88

I've enclosed \$1.00. Please send me the Kustomizing Kit of eleven colorful automotive decals plus George Barris' own booklet "Hints on Customizing Your Bike."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

BATMAN SUPERMAN

INVITE YOU TO GET YOUR **FREE COUPON HERE**

ADMIT ONE (1) TO PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK

ADMISSION **FREE** PARKING

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS

WORTH \$1.10 (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS) UNTIL 7PM.

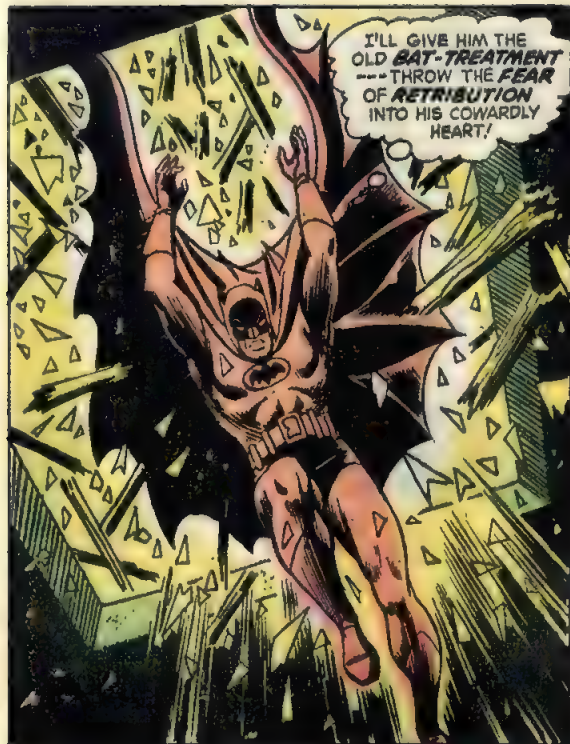
PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

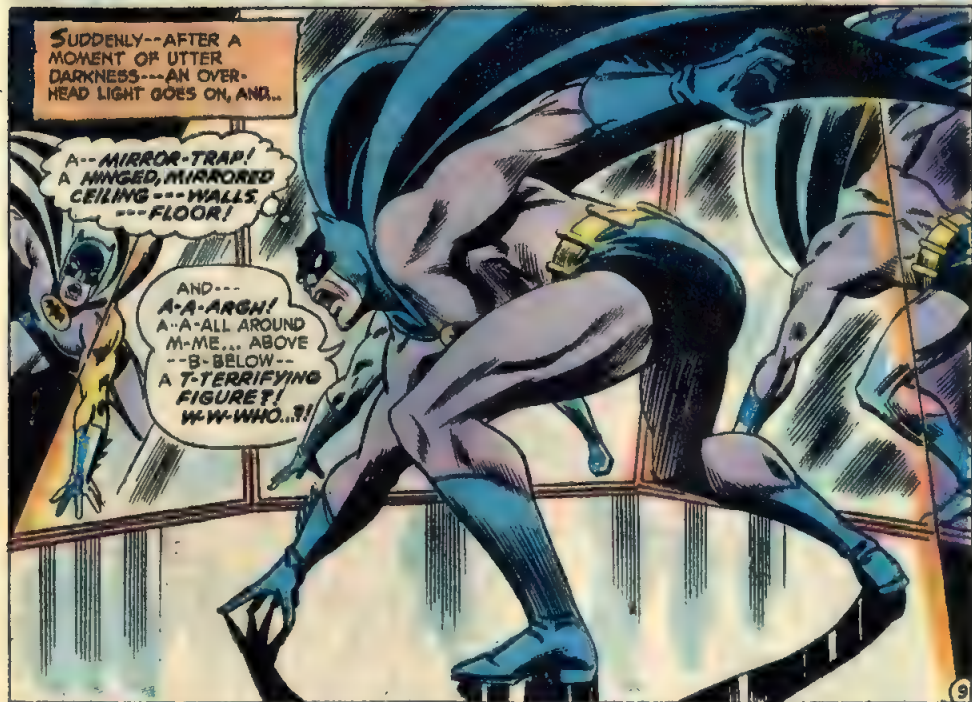
ALL DC NATIONAL COMICS

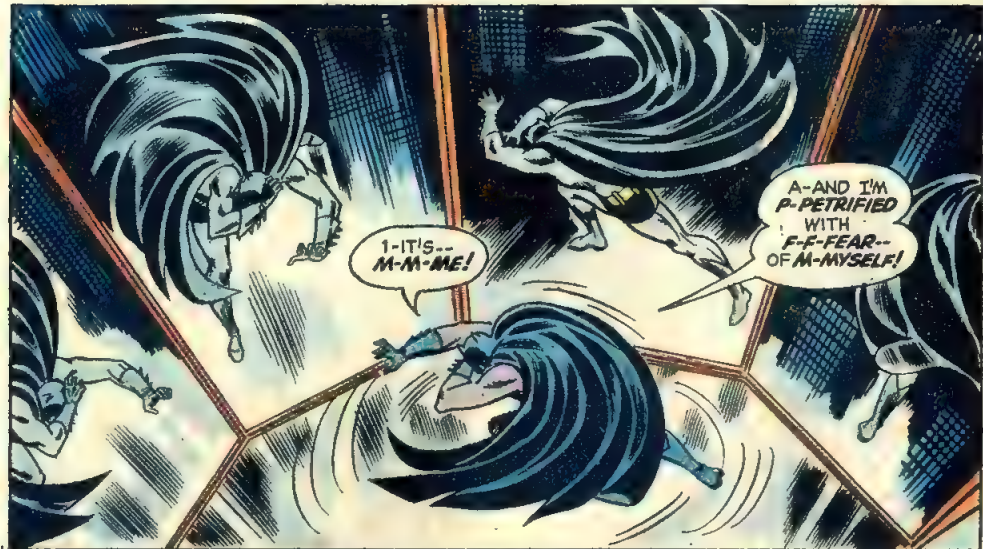
COMICS IN MAY THROUGH OCTOBER HAVE THE FREE COUPON!

Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE Free Ride CARROUSEL



BUT AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER
LANDS, A MENACING MASS SWINGS
DOWN ABOVE HIM--- OBSCURING THE
LIGHT OF THE MOON/...





1-IT'S--
M-M-ME!

A-AND I'M
P-PETRIFIED
WITH
F-F-FAIR--
OF M-MYSELF!



H-HOW CAN
THAT B-BE?
HOW CAN I
BE-- A-AFRAID
OF MY OWN
IMAGE?!

BECAUSE--**BATMAN**--
--- YOU'VE BEEN
PROGRAMMED TO
THROW FEAR INTO
ANYONE YOU LOOK
AT-- ANYONE WHOSE
BRAIN EMANATES EVIL!

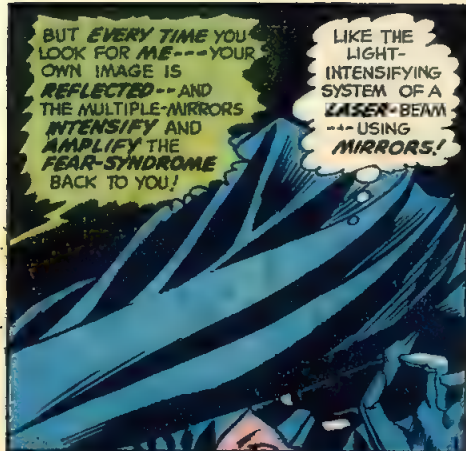


B-BUT MY BRAIN
ISN'T EVIL--
Y-YOU DEVIL!
W-W-WHERE
ARE YOU?

YOU CAN'T SEE ME--BUT
I CAN SEE YOU! THROUGH
THE WALLS OF YOUR CELL--
COMPOSED OF TWO-WAY
MIRRORS!



AND JUST AS I CAN
SEE YOU--MY BRAIN-
WAVES ARE ALSO
PENETRATING THE
GLASS ON MY SIDE,
MEETING YOUR
FEAR-EMANATIONS...



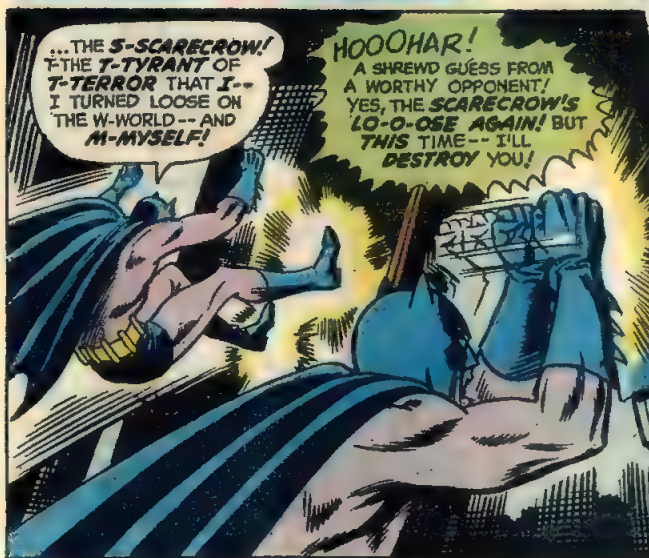
BUT EVERY TIME YOU
LOOK FOR ME---YOUR
OWN IMAGE IS
REFLECTED--AND
THE MULTIPLE-MIRRORS
INTENSIFY AND
AMPLIFY THE
FEAR-SYNDROME
BACK TO YOU!

LIKE THE
LIGHT-
INTENSIFYING
SYSTEM OF A
LASER-BEAM
---USING
MIRRORS!



I'M UP AGAINST A FIENDISH
**GENIUS! A MASTER AT THE
ART OF EVOKING TERROR!**

WHO ELSE
COULD IT
BE, BUT---



...THE **S-SCARECROW!**
**T-THE T-TYRANT OF
T-TERROR THAT I--
I TURNED LOOSE ON
THE W-WORLD-- AND
M-MYSELF!**

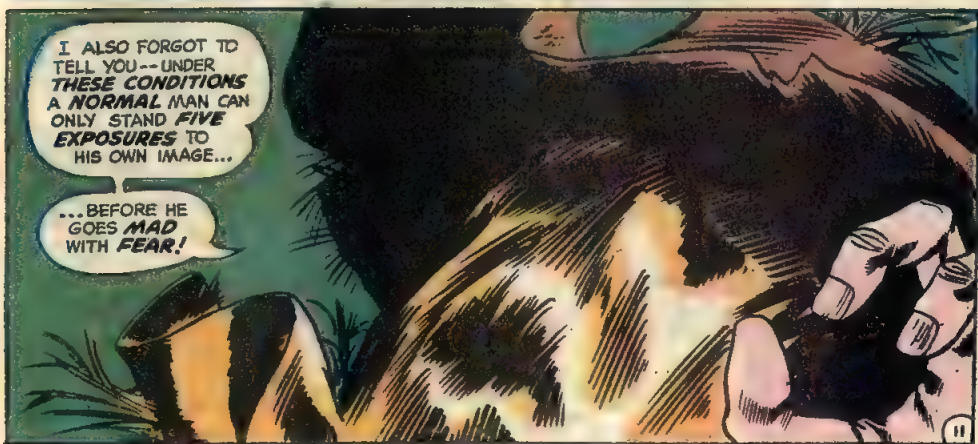
HOOHAR!

A SHREWD GUESS FROM
A WORTHY OPPONENT!
YES, THE **SCARECROW'S**
**LO-O-OSE AGAIN! BUT
THIS TIME-- I'LL
DESTROY YOU!**



**I-I'LL TEAR THIS PLACE
DOWN--T-TILL I
FIND YOU!**

NOT IF YOU CAN'T
SEE ME! AND--
DON'T WASTE YOUR
STRENGTH -- THE
MIRRORS ARE
**BULLET-PROOF
GLASS!**



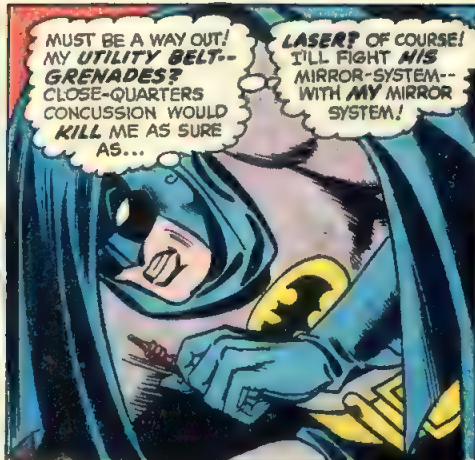
I ALSO FORGOT TO
TELL YOU--UNDER
THESE CONDITIONS
A **NORMAL MAN** CAN
ONLY STAND **FIVE
EXPOSURES** TO
HIS OWN IMAGE...

...BEFORE HE
GOES **MAD**
WITH **FEAR!**



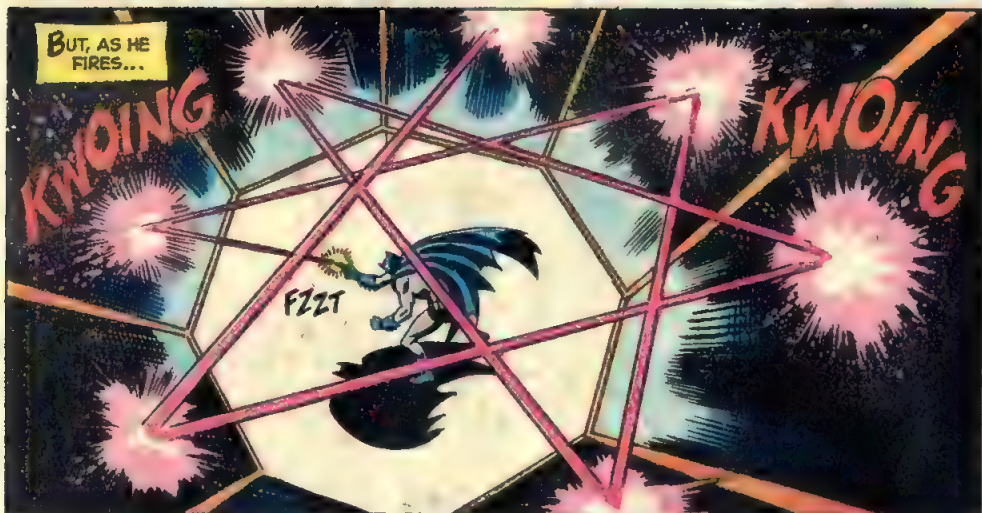
BUT YOU---I GIVE
SIX! AND YOU'VE ALREADY
USED UP---**FOUR!**

AT YOUR **LAST--**
INEVITABLE--GLANCE
--YOU'LL BE REDUCED
TO A JELLY-LIKE
MASS OF HELPLESS,
QUIVERING---
COMPLIANT---
SHUDDERING
FLESH!



MUST BE A WAY OUT!
MY **UTILITY BELT--**
GRENADES?
CLOSE-QUARTERS
CONCUSSION WOULD
KILL ME AS SURE
AS...

LASER? OF COURSE!
I'LL FIGHT **HIS**
MIRROR-SYSTEM--
WITH **MY MIRROR**
SYSTEM!

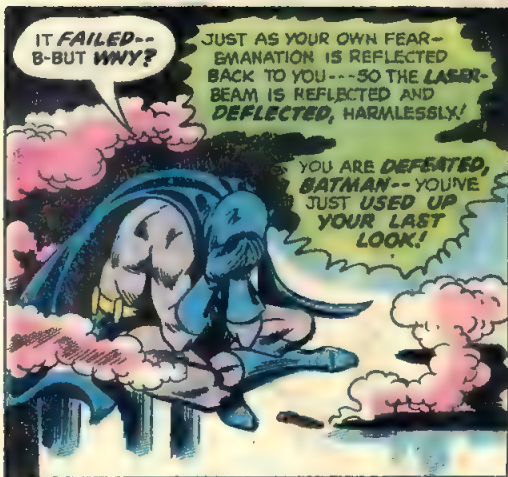


BUT, AS HE
FIRES...

KWOING

FZZT

KWOING



IT **FAILED--**
B-BUT **WHY?**

JUST AS YOUR OWN FEAR--
EMANATION IS REFLECTED
BACK TO YOU---SO THE LASER-
BEAM IS REFLECTED AND
DEFLECTED, HARMLESSLY!

YOU ARE **DEFEATED,**
BATMAN--YOU'VE
JUST USED UP
YOUR **LAST**
LOOK!



NOW I'M COMING
IN TO---**FINISH**
YOU!

KR-EAK-K
KLUMP
KLUMP

D-D-DOOR
OPENING...
F-FOOTSTEPS...

REACTING INSTINCTIVELY
AT THE SOUND OF THE
APPROACHING MENACE,
BATMAN LOOKS UP AND...

**KLUMP
KLUMP**

R-R-ROOM---
EMPTY! B-BEEN
TRICKED---
AAAA-RGHH!

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
BE CUTE ENOUGH TO
PLAY *POSSUM*, SO
I PLAYED BACK A
SOUND-EFFECTS
TAPE!

AND AS *BATMAN*
COLLAPSES INTO
UTTER SUBJECTION...

BEFORE YOU
LAPSE INTO
COMPLETE
TORPOR, YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO KNOW *HOW*
I TRICKED YOU
INTO TAKING
MY 3-DAY,
PROGRESSIVE
FEAR-SERUM,
EH?

MY TIME IN THE
PRISON-CLINIC WAS
SPENT PROFITABLY...

...DEVELOPING A
SPECIAL *INJECTOR-
RING!* WHICH,
WHEN WE SHOOK
HANDS, FORCED
THE FLUID THROUGH
YOUR SKIN INTO YOUR
BLOODSTREAM UNDER
HIGH-PRESSURE,
LEAVING NO MARK!

NOW, BOYS--YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO FEAR--
BUT FEAR ITSELF!

TAKE
HIM!

BUT SUDDENLY...

YAH-H-H!

H-HE'S GIVEN US---
THE EVIL EYE!

URGH-H-H...

BWOING



YOU **TRICKED** ME--SOMEHOW! YOU HAD **ONE** LOOK LEFT! HOW--?

FIRED LASER WITH EYES SHUT--MY EARS TOLD ME IT FAILED!

WHEN YOU TRICKED ME INTO MY **SIXTH** LOOK...



...IT WAS **REALLY** MY **FIFTH!** THE **SIXTH** I GAVE TO YOUR BOYS!

AND NOW--YOU'RE GOING TO USE MY **OWN WEAPON** AGAINST ME?

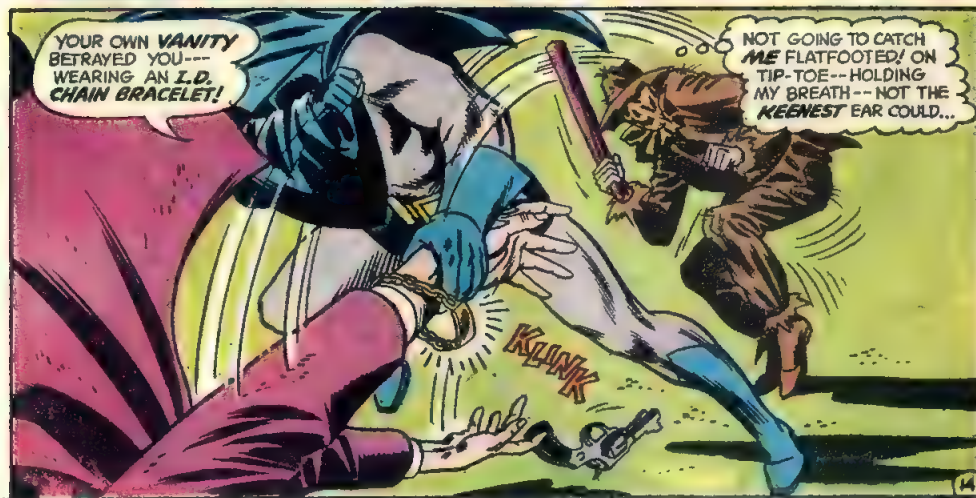


WRONG AGAIN, SCARECROW—AS ONLY YOUR KIND CAN BE! I'LL **NOT** USE YOUR EVIL--TO HELP ME **DEFEAT** EVIL!

LIKE **JUSTICE**, I TOO CAN FIGHT **BLIND!**



I CAN SPOT A "**HEEL**" WITHOUT **SEEING!**



YOUR OWN **VANITY** BETRAYED YOU---WEARING AN **I.D. CHAIN BRACELET!**

NOT GOING TO CATCH **ME** FLATFOOTED! ON TIP-TOE--HOLDING MY BREATH--NOT THE **KEENEST** EAR COULD...



TAKE A TIJUANA TAXI

It's more fun wherever you are!

Now! Crazy like, wild and way-out custom. A Tom Daniel original-- exclusively by Monogram



You'll love this "south-of-the-border" trap. It's an instant riot. A crazy, wild Tom Daniel creation-- groovy too. Features a Pontiac custom engine with lots of chrome, wide drag slicks and custom mag wheels. Upholstered fender seats for 2nd class pas-

sengers, top, rear-facing seats for 3rd class and a really fancy interior for 1st class riders. Rear trunk and chicken coop. Get the Tijuana Taxi at your favorite store. Only \$2.00.

Dear Editor:

I haven't commented on the newest angle the *New Look* in *Detective Comics* has taken until now because, to be truthful, I feared the necessity of a negative response. The new logo is reminiscent of those ghastly bygone days of *camp*, the stories have been a trifle too loose, the action a bit hysterical. After issue #385, however, I am pleased to say that all now seems to be well in the continuing story of battle-on *Batman*, and even a sophomore like myself can dare a round of compliments.

Bob Kanigher is a great writer...he can't have more than one or two peers in the whole field when it comes to entwining the force of character into his plots, not an easy thing to do in stories which allegedly put the most emphasis on entertainment and action. "Die Small—Die Big" was a touching story, again a notable and all-too-rare accomplishment in comic magazines. It was refreshing to have *Batman* and his brash brawn take a secondary role to the dramatic story of Herbert Small's quest to form a meaning for his heretofore vacuum life. I identified with him in the sense that all readers of a good story should identify with a well-delineated character; the yearning that dominated Herbert Small's life in this story has hold of a piece of all of us. There's one little item that pulled me into this story: some people may have wondered after seeing one lettercol or another just what the "H" in my name stands for. Well, now you know.

Mike Friedrich is a burgeoning writer...one of the most promising to come along in a long time. The two-part *Batgirl* yarn he wrapped up in this issue was the most professional he's ever turned out. In his previous scripts, he's had the newcomer's tendency to flip-flop between scenes, write in uneven action, and so on, but in this story everything flowed smoothly:

—GUY H. LILLIAN III, Berkeley, Cal.

(Bob Kanigher copped an award for his *Batman* epic, "Death Knocks Three Times," in '66. Judging from the readers' raves of "Die Small—Die Big," we predict he'll repeat in '69!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In "Winesburg, Ohio," considered to be the greatest work of the late Sherwood Anderson, the author, in a series of short stories about the inhabitants of a small rural town, uses characterizations to create a specific mood: of loneliness, isolation, and desperation. This use of emotion helps Anderson to convey the idea that accounts for the behavior of the townspeople; they are caught up in a vicious cycle of sorts. They are lonely because they have isolated themselves from each other. They have failed at making their dreams come true; they have been disenchanted by the realities of life, and now, trusting no one, they are withdrawn. Their loneliness has made communication useless and unnecessary. So, unable to communicate, they remain lonely and isolated, and the cycle starts all over again. The townspeople are victims of the breakdown in the efficacy of thought and communication. These anonymous failures have become intellectual hermits.

Such is the case with Herbert Small. He is a vic-

tim of his own inadequacy. Sensing his approaching death, however, he curses his loneliness and his anonymity, and attempts to fight a past of heartbreak and disillusionment and to thwart an unkind destiny that has made Herbert small.

Herbert is a hero, if not in the conventional sense. He is a hero in that he succeeds. His one act of merit and valor before he fades out for good compensates for everything, and he dies happy. He dies BIG.

In a period characterized by preference for biff-bam-socko type action, sparse and unimaginative dialogue, and dimension-less characters, it is a rare pleasure to read a story as "Die Small—Die Big" in *Detective* #385. I hope many readers will see the value in author Robert Kanigher's experiment (if I may be so presumptuous as to call it that); a story which concentrates primarily on the development and utilization of a specific characterization, and which uses it to establish a definite mood and evoke a particular emotional response from the reader. It is probably not the first adventure-hero comic mag story to use pathos effectively but its use here is noteworthy in that it is not a part of a moralistic ending tacked on sloppily to the end of a hastily-written story, nor is it, unlike its predecessors, used to evoke pity in a patronizing manner.

There were a few slight defects in the story, but they are not worth mentioning here, mainly because their effect on the story is outweighed by the many subtle, masterful touches that made "Die Small—Die Big" a work of art. Irony plays an important part in the tale when Small assumes his criminal disguise, and when, at the sad but beautiful conclusion of the story, Small's canary, previously mournfully silent, sings out with joy, almost as if it, too, is touched by the pitiful nobody who dies a man.

—MARTIN PASKO, Clifton, N.J.

(Martin Pasko went to great lengths to explain why and how "Die Small—Die Big" grabbed him. The next correspondent manages to sum it all up in one short sentence.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

"Die Small—Die Big" touched me with such feeling that it started me crying.

—ANTHONY RUSCITTI, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

The tragedy involved in "Die Small—Die Big" was the most convincing piece of literature I've read since *Macbeth*—and I mean that sincerely. Bob Kanigher handled every aspect of Herbert Small's character to perfection. It was not merely a case of the stereotype "grant a dying man's last request" but a relatively in-depth study of self-sacrifice. Characterization alone, however, does not necessarily make a story. Mr. Kanigher held the story together beautifully. One event followed another quite suspensefully and coherently. The action was not overdone in any one place—it was cleverly calculated and arranged to make for a surprisingly real—and tragic ending. Well done indeed!

—RON JENNINGS, Coronado, Cal.

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

STORY BY:
FRANK ROBBINS

BATGIRL

ART BY:
GIL KANE
&
MURPHY ANDERSON

"BATGIRL'S BAG OF TRICKS!"

ANSWERING A MYSTERIOUS AD, DANE (BATGIRL) GORDON IS CONFRONTED BY...

LATER... BATGIRL FIGHTS OFF A MYSTERY ESCORT DISGUISED AS "BATMAN"...

YOU'LL DO!
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE
MY PLACE AT THE
"AIRLINE HOSTESS"
AWARD COSTUME-
BALL...

...SO I
CAN ATTEND
MY GRAND-
FATHER'S 85TH
BIRTHDAY
PARTY!

TRICKING THE ASSASSIN INTO BELIEVING HE'S
KILLED HER, SHE FOLLOWS HIM TO THE COSTUME-
BALL, WHERE IN A PRIVATE DINING-ROOM...

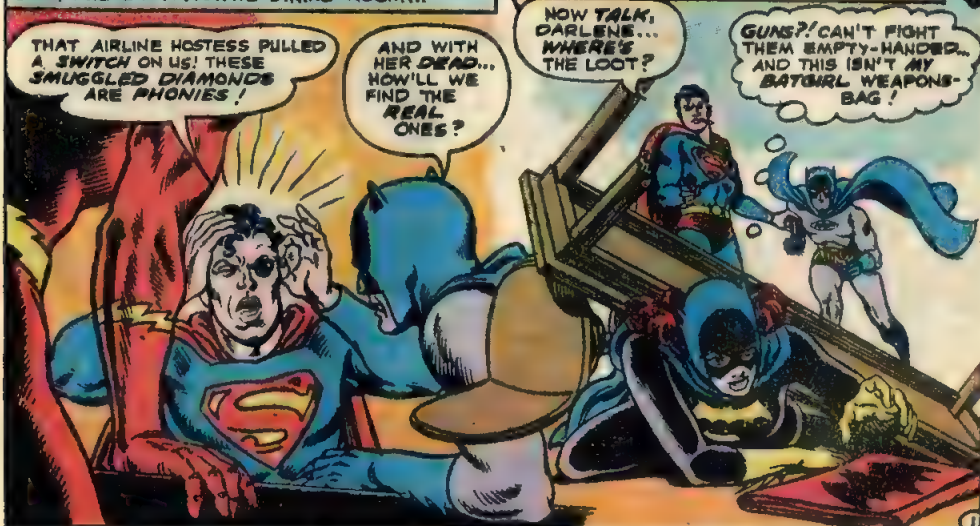
THAT AIRLINE HOSTESS PULLED
A SWITCH ON US! THESE
SMUGGLED DIAMONDS
ARE PHONIES!

AND WITH HER DEAD...
HOW'LL WE
FIND THE
REAL
ONES?

BUT BATGIRL'S SURPRISE "REINCARNATION"
ENDS IN DISASTER, AS...

NOW TALK,
DARLENE...
WHERE'S
THE LOOT?

GUNS? CAN'T FIGHT
THEM EMPTY-HANDED...
AND THIS ISN'T MY
BATGIRL WEAPONS-
BAG!



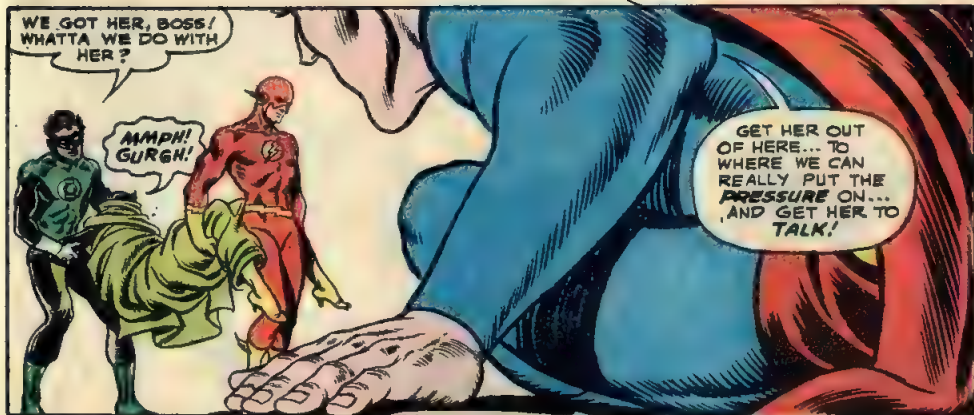
BUT I'M NOT EMPTY-FOOTED...UNTIL... I USE THIS TABLE AS AN EQUALIZER!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY TURNING THE TABLES ON YOU?

SUDDENLY... THE TWO HALF-FORGOTTEN INCAPACITATED COSTUMED-FOES RE-ENTER THE BATTLE!

HAW! NOW SHE'S GOT A REAL DRAPE-SHAPE!

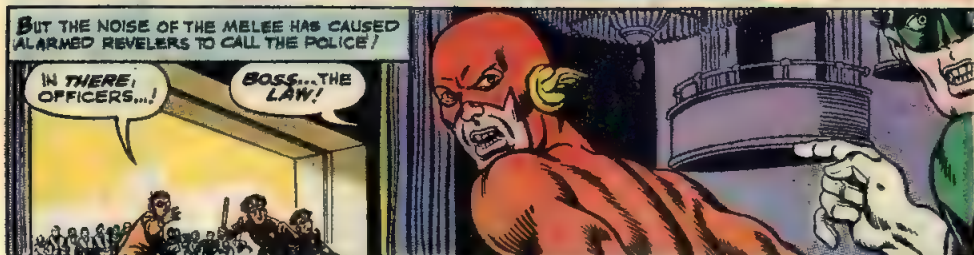
THAT'S WHAT SHE GETS FOR BEING SO WRAPPED UP IN HERSELF!



WE GOT HER, BOSS!
WHATTA WE DO WITH
HER?

MMPH!
GURGH!

GET HER OUT
OF HERE... TO
WHERE WE CAN
REALLY PUT THE
PRESSURE ON...
'AND GET HER TO
TALK!'



BUT THE NOISE OF THE MELEE HAS CAUSED
ALARMED REVELERS TO CALL THE POLICE!

IN THERE!
OFFICERS...!

BOSS...THE
LAW!

BUT THE TIMELY INTERRUPTION HAS ENABLED **BATGIRL**
TO DRAW UP HER LEGS, AND... THEN... FOLLOWING UP WITH A ONE-TWO KNOCKOUT...

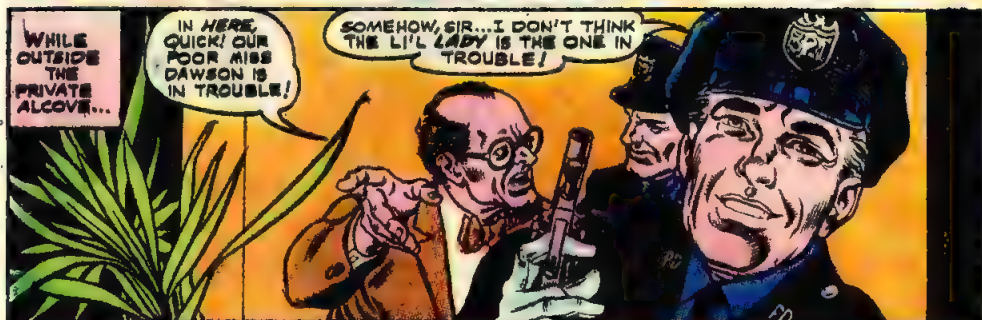
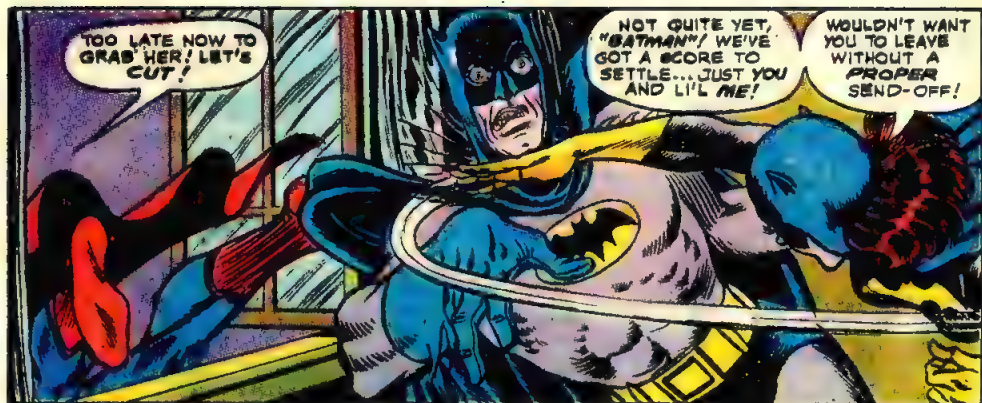


QUICK! OUT THE
BACK...

DOOF-F!

THAT SHORT-
CIRCUITS
"THE FLASH"!

AND THAT
SNUFFS OUT
"GREEN
LANTERN"!



BIG, BIG, BIG,

"Personally Yours"



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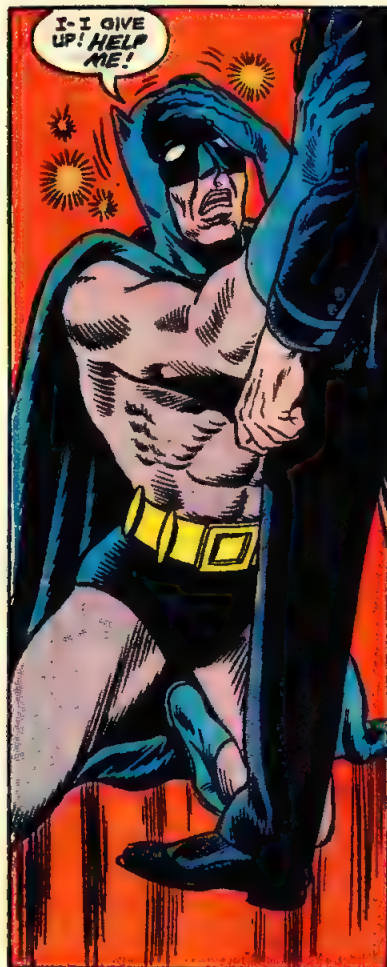
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STILL UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT BATGIRL IS REALLY DARLENE IN DISGUISE, THE GANG-LEADER HAS BACK-TRACKED, AND...



OH HURRY, PLEASE! I'VE GOT TO NAB HER...

SHE'S FIDGETING--REAL ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY TO WHERE SHE'S STASHED THE LOOT!

THEN, IMPATIENT MOMENTS LATER...

SHE SAID... "COSSY CORNERS"... FIFTY MILES OUT OF GOTHAM! IT'S A LONG-SHOT, BUT...

LIKE A CAT AFTER CATNIP... SHE'S MOVING OUT FAST!

JUST HOPE SHE HASN'T GOT HER POOR INNOCENT GRANDPOP MIXED UP IN THIS MESS!

SHARP PUSSYCAT, THAT DARLENE! SHE'S FOLLOWING HER NOSE... ALL I GOT TO DO IS TAIL HER TAIL!

A MAD RIDE LATER...

O-BATGIRL?! WOW, THIS IS A BIG NIGHT FOR COSSY CORNERS!

THIS IS NOT EXACTLY A GOOD-WILL TOUR, OFFICER! WHERE CAN I FIND THE DAWSON HOUSE?

AND MOMENTS LATER...

JEEPERS! SUPERMAN, TOO? OLD MAN DAWSON SURE GITS THE DERNEST VISITORS ON HIS BIRTHDAY. AN' I THOUGHT NOBODY OUT OF TOWN EVER HEARD OF HIM!

AND THEN, GREETING BATGIRL'S AMAZED GAZE...

HEH! HEH! GRAN'DAUGHTER, YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER GIFT TO GLADDEN AN OLD MAN'S FEEBLE VISION!

POOR... INNOCENT... OLD MAN? WHY... HE'S THE BRAINS BEHIND DARLENE!

IN ALL MY YEARS OF FENCING--NEVER SAW A FINER CROP O' SPARKLERS!

I'LL PARK HERE AND SNEAK UP ON HER! SHAME SHE HAS NO RESPECT FOR THAT OLD MAN...

OH, GRAMPS... I NEVER COULD'VE PULLED IT OFF WITHOUT YOUR FINE OLD GUIDANCE!

NOW I HAVE NO COMPUSSION ABOUT APPREHENDING BOTH OF THEM!

B-SABS... GORMAN?! B-BUT YOU SHOULD BE ...

YEAH! WITHOUT GRAN' POP I'D STILL BE FLYING THAT CRUMMY AIRLINE...

... AND EARNING YOUR LIVING THE RESPECTABLE WAY! TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T...

... DEAD? THE WAY YOU ARRANGED IT, DARLENE? OR WAS IT ALL MASTER-MINDED BY DEAR OL' GRAN'DAD?

DROP IT!

NOT TILL... I DROP YOU!

HOLD FIRM, GRAN'-DAUGHTER... I'LL HELP YOU!

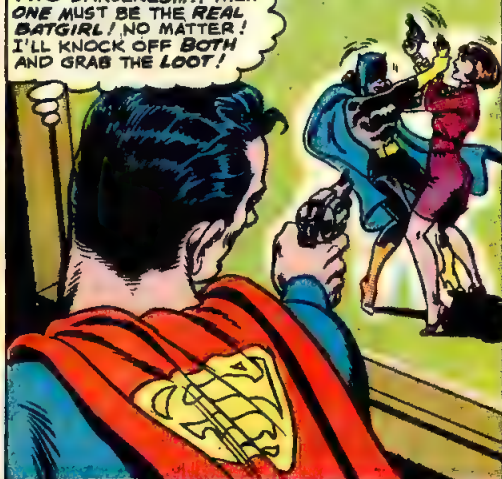
TOTTERING INTO AN ADJOINING ROOM...

HEH! AIN'T HAD SUCH
EXCITEMENT SINCE MY
BOOTLEGGIN' DAYS! GIT
MY GOOD OL' TYPE-
WRITER...



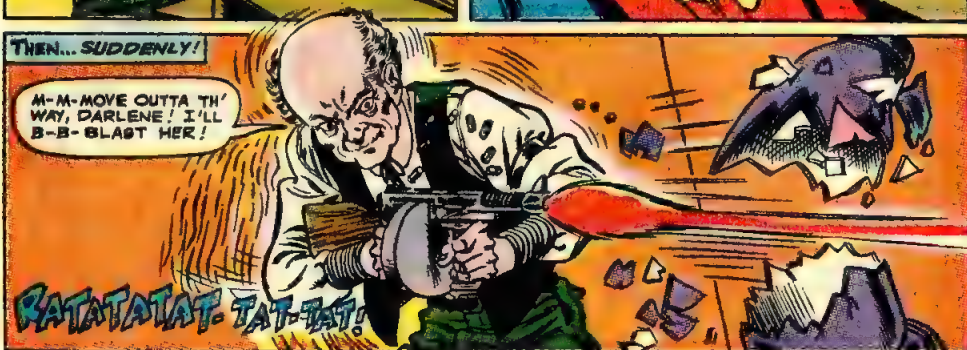
WHILE OUTSIDE...

TWO DARLENES...?! THEN
ONE MUST BE THE REAL
BATGIRL! NO MATTER!
I'LL KNOCK OFF BOTH
AND GRAB THE LOOT!



THEN... SUDDENLY!

M-M-MOVE OUTTA TH'
WAY, DARLENE! I'LL
B-B-BLAST HER!



RATATATAT...TAT-TAT!

BUT IT'S BEEN MANY A LONG YEAR SINCE GRAND-
DAD'S BOOTLEGGING DAYS...

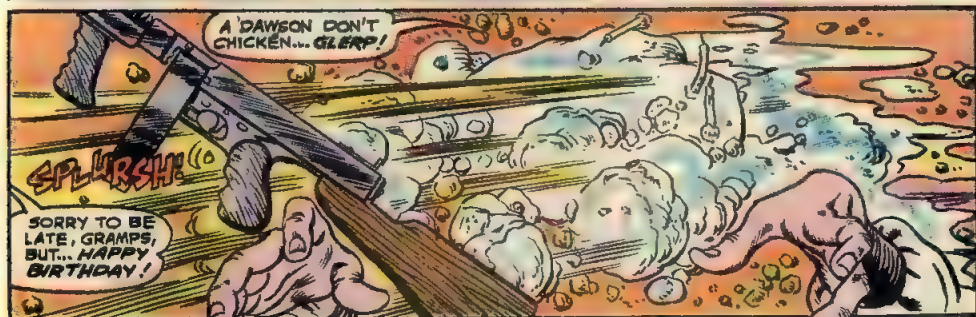
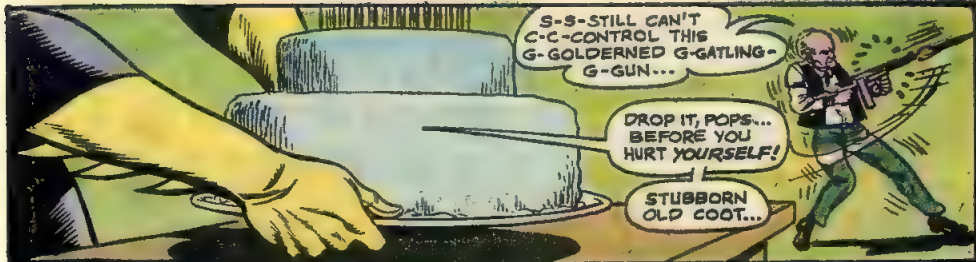
TEMPORARILY PRELIEVED BY GRANDPA'S ERRACTIC
FIRE...

D-D-D-DRAY! ME OLD HANDS C-CAN'T
K-K-KEEP 'GALLOPING-SUSIE'...
S-S-S-STEADY!



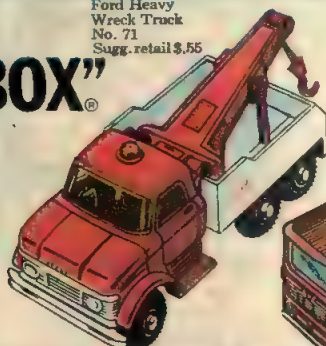
GOT TO SHORTEN
THE ODD, BEFORE HE
GETS...LUCKY!





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30TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

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BATMAN 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



Dear Editor:

Everyone's raving about Frank Robbins' *Batman*—whether he is good or bad, camp or serious. But... has everyone forgotten the art? Does *Batman* really look like the *Batman* as he was first intended? I say no.

Just to name one fault—ever since the *New Look* has been installed, *Batman's* cape has been getting shorter and shorter. Why is this? It's the artist. Is there any artist who portrays *Batman* as that eerie creature of the night? The one who instills fear into the hearts of all criminals? Yes! Neal Adams!

If you'll take a look at Neal Adams' cover for the March *Batman*, you'll see what *Batman* really looks like. Now look at him on the splash page of the same issue. See what I mean?

—MIKE MALLORY, Boggstown, Ind.

(You're not the only one who's looked at Neal Adams' graphic portrayals of *Batman*! Artist Bob Brown took a long-hard look—with the results evident in this issue. Frank Robbins took his own look at the storyline—with the instilling fear-in-criminals, results likewise evident in "*Batman's Evil Eye*!" Further discussions in a similar vein by fellow-Batmaniacs follow. —Editor)

Dear Editor:

I have been a follower of *Batman's* adventures since the early fifties. All throughout these years I have felt something was seriously wrong with the stories. It was not just the mediocre plots of the fifties and early sixties or the camp plots of the mid-sixties; it was something else. Finally it came to me.

Batman, who chose his costume to strike terror into the hearts of criminals, lacks the necessary quality to do just that. He lacks *mystery*. *Batman* is everybody's friend; he attends dinners in his honor, he is present at openings of museums and art galleries, he is always in Commissioner Gordon's office. How could anyone fear such a public figure? *Batman* is the poor-man's *Hoss Cartwright*—tall and strong but not really awe-inspiring.

If you look over some recent issues of *Brave and Bold* where *Batman* is depicted as appearing in the night—he is terrific! His costume really does strike terror into your heart. This is the image that *Batman* should present.

The only way to remedy this fault is to drastically alter *Batman's* portrayal in the future. He should get out of the public eye! He should not attend any more public functions at all or ever be seen by Commissioner Gordon. In fact, *Batman* should not even be seen in the daytime at all. His costume looks terrific at night but ludicrous in daylight. *Robin's* costume is much more colorful and thereby more suited to be seen in the day and should be *Batman's* link with society. *Batman* could be present as *Bruce Wayne* but definitely not in costume. For only by having *Batman*

get out of the public eye and having him appear only at night (or in shadowy recesses of buildings, back alleys, etc. in daylight) will his aura of mystery reappear.

This transformation could come about by *Batman's* getting fed up with *Gotham's* lack of faith in him—shown by the fact that whenever he makes a mistake *Gotham's* citizens are all too ready to condemn him. He could become bitter and storm out of the limelight, using *Robin* as go-between for him and the law officials.

—GEORGE JACUB, Winnipeg, Man., Can.

Dear Editor:

Suspense, mystery, plots and detection—not superhero antics—are the elements belonging in *Batman*. I am a bit sick of a happy *Batman* that bounces onto the scene of the crime (because he happens to be in that area), beats up the stupid thugs with a few punches and several funny (?) cracks, bounces out again and immediately stumbles across the brains behind the gang. (This description fits many stories with the exception of a few of Frank Robbins' masterpieces.)

Whatever happened to the *Batman* that the criminal element feared? Bruce Wayne swore to avenge the death of his parents and eventually swore to wage a one-man war on all crime. There's no humor involved in a vow such as that one, a vow that sustained Bruce Wayne through thirty years of crime-fighting. Sure, I appreciate the occasional light story or change of pace. But where is *Batman's intensity of purpose*? Is his battle against evil or a mere game to him?

After a great deal of thought, I have come to the conclusion that the rich playboy alter ego has become cumbersome. So has *Robin*; in this day and age none of us can identify with him and only younger readers wish they were in his place. Indeed, I detect a reduction in *Robin's* role beside *Batman*, leaving his fans to turn to the featurette in *Detective Comics* or to *Teen Titans*.

Batman is essentially a loner, a creature of the dark and of the night... I prefer the lone silhouette of an eerie caped figure swinging over rooftops to any other image you can create. I refer you and the people that agree with me to some of the recent *Batman*-and-other-hero-team-ups in *Brave and Bold*. There he appears intense, dedicated, serious, alert, etc., with all the qualities of a mysterious master detective. That is the way he should always appear!

—LOREN LIEBERTHAL New York, N.Y.

(Challenging targets for us to aim at—but our authors-artists teams are on the firing line to make with the bull's-eyes!—Editor)

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STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —P. C., Attleboro, Mass.

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play. —G. V., Cincinnati, O.

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. —F. T., Manila, P.I.

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life. —C. H., Lanett, Ala.

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play. —P. M., Port Huron, Mich.

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer. —N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

Boys are waiting in line to play the game! —A. H., Chicago, Ill.

It has given me more pleasure than any other game. —S. E., Rossville, Ind.

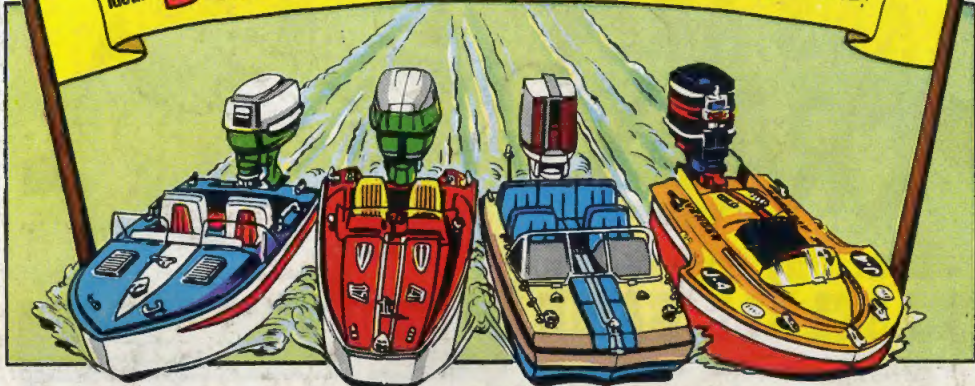
The most exciting and fun game ever. —L. S., Boston, Mass.

It is so stupendous, words can't explain. —J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Best on the market. —J. E., Miami, Fla.

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. —S. C., Temple City, Calif.

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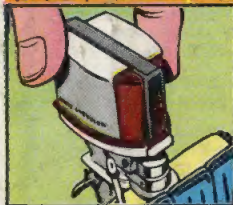
THE RENEGADE

THE BLUE DEVIL

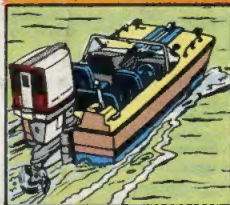
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FOUR HOT NEW OUTBOARDS THAT COME WITH SOUPED-UP MOTORS!

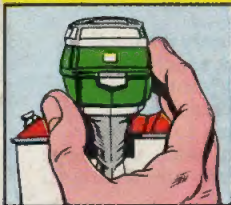
CLAMP DOWN BLUE DEVIL'S CHRYSLER MOTOR... NO WIRES TO ATTACH!



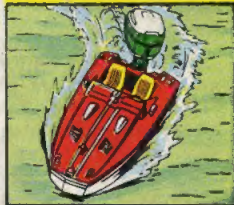
TILT DOWN...AND IT KICKS OFF AUTOMATICALLY!



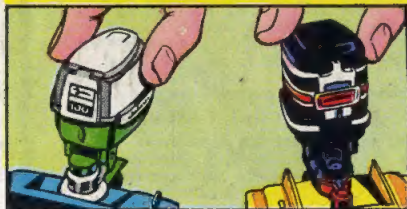
SET THE RENEGADE'S EVINRUDE MOTOR FOR RUNNING MANEUVERS...



OR SET IT FOR TIGHT TURNS!



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AND IT'S BYE BABY IN A RACE WITH NO HOLDS BARRED!



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